

THE  
C I T I Z E N S  
R E P L Y  
To the Whores Petition,  
AND  
Prentices Answer.

**N**OW that you two have made your grievance known,  
In the third place, pray let our cause be shown,  
The Proverb say, *give losers leave to speak*  
And by that rule wee may a freedome take;  
For why we suffer in our Reputation,  
Such things should acted be in this our Nation;  
A City fame'd through *Europes* Continent  
To be the Prime for civil Government;  
And that a Rout under *Prentices* names  
Should act such things as those unto our shames  
VVe cannot but bewail, and henceforth shall  
Strive to redress, and to prevent them all.

First you who think your selves ith wrong'd condition  
And therefore take upon you to *Petition*,  
VVe do believe your losses to be great,  
And don't approve of them that did the feat;  
Yet let us tell you too, your vices were  
Far greater then the loss fell to your share;  
Your actions to such height of ill did bend  
You *well* might think that *ill* would be the end;  
You are the Cities *Pest-house*, Suburbs *sinks*,  
And what proceeds from *sinks* but nasty *sinks*?  
What can expected be from such as doe  
Sin with delight, but misery and woe?

Complain not then, your selves may rather blame,  
It was your impudence that caused the same,  
Strive to get goods by what is lawful means,  
And think not to grow rich by being *Queans*;  
"That never thrives which is attain'd by ill,  
"A little evil got much consume will.

Forbear henceforth then to commit such facts  
You see the consequence of such bad acts,  
"Shame and confusion alwayes is the end,  
"Of that which unto vice and sinne doth tend.  
Then next to you who set the boys on work,  
(Who little thought such mischief in't did lurke)  
You who act mischief in *Prentices* names  
Thinking upon them for to put the blames;  
VWho by pretence of punishing of *Whores*

Doe rob and steal from them their wealth and stores,  
VWho knowes what mischief might by this arose  
VWhen faction did with insurrection close;  
Sad might it prov'd if you had been cemented  
"Dangers foreseen are easiest prevented  
Tis good to crush the *Serpents* in the Eggs;  
Before such mischief stands too firm on legs;  
Some little dreaming harm may be drawn in  
And so be punish'd for anothers sin,  
They suffer may for all their harmlesse *Loose*;  
"VWhat has the *Dave* to doe among the *Rocks*?  
Keep far from such then as doe move sedit on,  
"By giving Countenance you give Commission.  
"It is encouragement to those uncivil  
"For to look on and not correct their evil.

You raile on VWhores, tis true, they bad do live;  
And yet your selves as bad example give,  
VWill you in such contempt and rudeness stand  
To seek to wrest the sword from *Justice* hand?  
VWhat can be thought of such a bold intrusion  
But that it will bring all unto confusion.

Sad may we think will prove that fatall day  
When a rude rout takes on them to bear sway,  
Such actions must needs shipwrack on the shelves;  
VWho'd punish *Theft* and be strong *Thieves* themselves;  
Do you your selves in compass fair demean  
Justice will punish them which is obscene,  
Should Justice chance to wink, tis tumults curse  
To punish Vice by that which is far worse;  
Tumults in time may to Rebellion come  
Mischief doe after mischief *twisely* run.

So to conclude, lets wish you to beware,  
And in your actions have a better care,  
Though some by fair delusions in would creep,  
There's difference will be found 'twixt *Swine* and *Sheep*;  
And those who seek by Boyes to make foul ends  
May find the hangman prove their fastest friends,  
Let insurrections have the *Tiburn* swing,  
VVe for our parts doe cry, *God save the K I N G*.